



Supplemental Questions for National Ranking and Evaluation

A National Ranking and Evaluation process will be completed for all mitigation projects and planning activities proposed under FEMA's Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) competitive grant program. The information needed to rank and evaluate activities is provided below in the form of Supplemental Questions. Applicants and/or Sub-applicants must provide responses to the Supplemental Questions and supporting documentation for each mitigation project and planning activity submitted. FEMA will use this information during the National Ranking and Evaluation of applications. Applications without complete responses to the Supplemental Questions and supporting documentation for each activity submitted by the application deadline will not be considered for PDM competitive grants.

Note that the questions are divided into three sections: Supplemental Questions for all activities, Supplemental questions for mitigation planning activities, and Supplemental Questions for Projects. This reflects what is requested in the Evaluation section of the electronic grant application in FEMA's electronic grants (e-Grants) system. If Applicants or Sub-applicants have problems understanding these questions or need assistance, they should consult their FEMA Regional Office.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS FOR ALL ACTIVITIES

Please provide responses to the following supplemental questions for both mitigation planning activities and mitigation projects:

- **If applying for multiple mitigation activities, how do these activities relate (e.g., mitigation project as demonstration for public education; two different mitigation activities for the same structure; feasibility study and related mitigation project; risk assessment to serve as basis for a mitigation plan)?**
- **Is your community participating in the Community Rating System (CRS)? If yes, what is your CRS rating?**

REFERENCE:

The National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS) was implemented in 1990 as a program for recognizing and encouraging community floodplain management activities that exceed the minimum NFIP standards. The National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 codified the Community Rating System in



the NFIP. Under the CRS, flood insurance premium rates are adjusted to reflect the reduced flood risk resulting from community activities that meet the three goals of the CRS: (1) reduce flood losses; (2) facilitate accurate insurance rating; and (3) promote the awareness of flood insurance. There are ten CRS classes: class 1 requires the most credit points and gives the largest premium reduction; class 10 receives no premium reduction. For more information, please visit the FEMA website:
<http://www.fema.gov/nfip/crs.shtm>.

■ **Is your community a Cooperating Technical Partner (CTP)?**

REFERENCE:

FEMA developed the Cooperating Technical Partners (CTP) Program to increase local involvement in, and ownership of, the flood mapping process. As technologies have improved, many State agencies, regional agencies, and local communities have become technologically sophisticated and have invested significant resources in flood hazard identification. Additional information on FEMA's Cooperating Technical Partner initiative can be found at www.fema.gov/mit/tsd/ctp_main.htm

■ **Is your community a Firewise Community? If yes, please provide your Firewise Community number.**

REFERENCE:

Firewise Communities/USA is a project of the National Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Program. It provides citizens with the knowledge necessary to maintain an acceptable level of fire readiness, while ensuring firefighters that they can use equipment more efficiently during a wildland fire emergency. The program draws on a community's spirit, its resolve, and its willingness to take responsibility for its ignition potential. Information on the Firewise Community initiative and recognized Firewise communities can be found at www.firewise.org/usa/

■ **Has your community adopted building codes consistent with the International Codes?**

REFERENCE:

The International Code Council (ICC) was established in 1994 as a nonprofit organization dedicated to developing a single set of comprehensive and coordinated national model construction codes. The United States has the highest standard of building safety in the world. This track record of success was created by the members of the ICC. The ICC family of codes is comprehensive, coordinated and up-to-date — making them the most functional set of codes governing building construction. The ICC is the only organization to develop a single set of codes to unify the entire U.S. building



regulatory system. Additional information on International codes and those that have adopted them can be found at <http://www.iccsafe.org/about/index.htm>

■ **Has your community adopted the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 5000 Code?**

REFERENCE:

NFPA 5000 is the first building code developed through an American National Standards Institute (ANSI)-accredited process. NFPA 5000 is an integral part of the Comprehensive Consensus Codes set, the only full set of integrated consensus-based safety codes and standards, developed by NFPA and its partners, the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO), the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE), and the Western Fire Chiefs Association (WFCA). Information on NFPA 5000 Code can be found at www.nfpa.org/catalog/home/OnlineAccess/Access5000/Access5000.asp

■ **Have your community's building codes been assessed on the Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS)? If yes, what is your BCEGS rating?**

REFERENCE:

The Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS) assesses the building codes in effect in a particular community and how the community enforces its building codes, with special emphasis on mitigation of losses from natural hazards. The BCEGS program assigns each municipality a BCEGS grade of 1 (exemplary commitment to building-code enforcement) to 10. More information on BCEGS can be found at www.isomitigation.com/bcegs1.html

■ **Does your community have a current FEMA-approved local multi-hazard mitigation plan? If yes, please provide the name of plan, type of plan (i.e., Local Multi-hazard Mitigation Plan, Tribal Local Multi-hazard Mitigation Plan), and date approved by FEMA.**

■ **Does the State/Tribe in which your community is located have a current FEMA-approved mitigation plan? If yes, please provide the name of plan, plan type (i.e., Enhanced State Multi-hazard Mitigation Plan, Enhanced Tribal Multi-hazard Mitigation Plan, Standard State Multi-hazard Mitigation Plan, Standard Tribal Multi-hazard Mitigation Plan, or State Plan – Pre-DMA 2000), and date approved by FEMA.**



- **Describe the desired outcome and methodology of the mitigation activity in terms of mitigation objectives to be achieved.**

- **Describe performance expectations and timeline for interim milestones and overall completion of mitigation activity.**

- **Describe the staff and resources needed to implement this mitigation activity and applicant's ability to provide these resources.**

- **Describe how this mitigation activity will incorporate State, Tribal, private, or local community involvement to enhance its outcome through partnership.**

- **Describe how your community uses incentives to encourage mitigation (e.g., tax credits, building codes, waiver of building permit fee, FEMA-approved mitigation plan in place).**

- **Describe any outreach activities that are planned relative to this mitigation activity (e.g., signs, press releases, success stories, developing package to share with other communities, losses avoided analysis).**

- **Describe how this mitigation activity is creative/innovative.**

- **Describe how this mitigation activity will serve as a model for other communities (e.g., Do you intend to mentor other communities, tribes or States? Do you intend to prepare a description of the process followed in this activity so that others may learn from the example?).**



SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS FOR MITIGATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES

Please provide responses to the following additional questions (along with the supplemental questions for “all activities” above) for competitive mitigation planning activities only:

- **Please provide an assessment of the frequency (Very Low/Low/Medium/High) and severity (Minor, Serious, Extensive, Catastrophic) of an event in the applicant’s area for each of the following hazards: coastal storms, earthquake, fire, flood, freezing, hurricane, mud/landslide, severe ice storms, severe storms, snow, tornado, tsunami, typhoon, volcano, and windstorm (see table below). Please provide documentation that provides justification for your risk assessment.**

Risk Assessment by Hazard								
Hazard	Frequency				Severity			
Coastal Storms	Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Minor	Serious	Extensive	Catastrophic
Earthquake	Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Minor	Serious	Extensive	Catastrophic
Fire	Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Minor	Serious	Extensive	Catastrophic
Flood	Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Minor	Serious	Extensive	Catastrophic
Freezing	Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Minor	Serious	Extensive	Catastrophic
Hurricane	Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Minor	Serious	Extensive	Catastrophic
Mud/Landslide	Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Minor	Serious	Extensive	Catastrophic
Severe Ice Storms	Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Minor	Serious	Extensive	Catastrophic
Severe Storms	Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Minor	Serious	Extensive	Catastrophic
Snow	Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Minor	Serious	Extensive	Catastrophic
Tornado	Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Minor	Serious	Extensive	Catastrophic
Tsunami	Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Minor	Serious	Extensive	Catastrophic
Typhoon	Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Minor	Serious	Extensive	Catastrophic
Volcano	Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Minor	Serious	Extensive	Catastrophic
Windstorm	Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Minor	Serious	Extensive	Catastrophic

REFERENCE:

Criteria for frequency categorization:

- Very low frequency: events that occur less frequently than once in 1,000 years (<10-3/yr);
- Low frequency: events that occur from once in 100 years to once in 1,000 years (10-2 to 10-3/yr);
- Medium frequency: events that occur from once in 10 years to once in 100 years (10-1 to 10-2/yr); and
- High frequency: events that occur more frequently than once in 10 years (>10-1/yr).



Criteria for severity categorization might include an examination of the potential for fatalities, injuries, property damage, business interruption, and environmental and economic impacts, rated in categories ranging from minor to catastrophic.

A State Hazard Mitigation Officer is a good source for information about hazards in your State. In addition, FEMA has some resources that may be helpful to you:

- “Understanding Your Risks - Identifying Hazards and Estimating Losses” (FEMA 386-2), provides step-by-step guidance on how to accomplish a risk assessment, which is the first phase of the planning process. This document is available online at www.fema.gov/fima/planning_toc3.shtm.
- FEMA's "Multi Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment" document is also available online: www.fema.gov/mit/tsd/dl_mhira.htm.
- Information on HAZUS, a natural hazard loss estimation methodology developed by FEMA in partnership with the National Institute of Building Sciences can be found at www.fema.gov/hazus/index.shtm.
- FEMA and ESRI have formed a National Partnership in part aimed at providing multi-hazard maps and information. You may create an online hazard map at www.esri.com/hazards/.
- The US Geological Survey website has information on a National Seismic Hazard Mapping Project: <http://geohazards.cr.usgs.gov/eq/>, which is useful for earthquake hazard information.

■ **Describe how this mitigation activity supports the National Priority (i.e., addresses repetitive flood loss properties).**

REFERENCE:

The primary objective of the Repetitive Loss Properties Strategy is to eliminate or reduce the damage to property and the disruption of life caused by repeated flooding of the same properties. A specific target group of repetitive loss properties includes every NFIP-insured property that, since 1978 and regardless of any change(s) of ownership during that period, has experienced:

- a) Four or more paid flood losses; or
- b) Two paid flood losses within a 10-year period that equal or exceed the current value of the insured property; or
- c) Three or more paid losses that equal or exceed the current value of the insured property.

Additional information on repetitive loss properties can be found at www.fema.gov/nfip/replps.shtm.



SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS FOR MITIGATION PROJECTS

Please provide responses to the following additional questions (along with the supplemental questions for “all activities” above) for competitive mitigation projects only:

- **What is the net present value of project benefits (A)? What is the total project cost estimate (B)? The benefit cost ratio for the entire project will be calculated by dividing the net present value of project benefits (A) by the total project cost estimate (B). A narrative description of the methodology utilized in the analysis, including any assumptions made when conducting the Benefit-Cost Analysis must be provided. The narrative statement should also include any documentation of hazard and damage data utilized, and copies of summary reports from the Benefit-Cost Analysis software utilized.**

REFERENCE:

A Benefit-Cost Analysis is a quantitative procedure that assesses the desirability of a hazard mitigation project by taking a long-term view of avoided future damages to insurable structures as compared to the cost of a project. The outcome of the analysis is a benefit-cost ratio, which demonstrates whether the net present value of benefits exceeds the net present value of costs.

A Benefit Cost Analysis is required for all mitigation projects, and mitigation projects with a benefit cost ratio less than 1.0 will not be considered for the PDM competitive grant program. Mitigation projects with higher benefit cost ratios will be more competitive.

- **Please provide the percent of the population benefiting from this mitigation activity.**

REFERENCE:

The percent of the population benefiting is calculated by dividing the number of individuals directly benefiting from the proposed mitigation activity by the total population of the community(s) the project affects.

- **What is the primary hazard to be mitigated? Please select from the following primary hazards: Coastal storms; Earthquake; Windstorms; Fire; Flood; Freezing; Hurricane; Mud/landslide; Severe ice storms; Severe Storms; Snow; Tornado; Tsunami; Typhoon; or Volcano.**



- **Please list of any other hazards to be mitigated.**

- **Does this mitigation activity protect a critical facility? If yes, please provide the type of critical facilities to be protected (i.e., Hazardous Materials Facilities, Emergency Operation Centers, Power Facilities, Water Facilities, Sewer and wastewater treatment Facilities, Communications Facilities, Emergency Medical Care Facilities, Fire Protection, and Emergency Facilities).**

REFERENCE:

Critical facilities are:

- Facilities that produce, use or store highly volatile, flammable, explosive, toxic or water-reactive materials;
- Emergency Operation Centers, data storage centers which contain records or services that may become lost or inoperative;
- Power—Facilities for generation, transmission and distribution of electric power;
- Water (including water provided by an irrigation organization or facility)—Facilities for the treatment, transmission and distribution of water by a water company supplying municipal water. In addition, water provided by an irrigation company for potable, fire protection or electricity generation purposes;
- Sewer and wastewater treatment—Facilities for collection, transmission and treatment of wastewater;
- Communications—Facilities for transmission, switching and distribution of telephone traffic;
- Emergency Medical Care—Facilities which provide direct patient care to include hospitals, clinics, outpatient services, nursing homes, and housing for the elderly, which are likely to contain occupants who may not be sufficiently mobile to avoid the loss of life or injury; and,
- Fire Protection/Emergency—Fire and rescue companies including buildings and vehicles essential to providing emergency services, police, and ambulance companies.

- **Describe how this mitigation activity supports the National Priority (i.e., reducing repetitive flood loss properties); complies with Federal laws and Executive Orders (e.g., National Environmental Policy Act, National Historic Preservation Act, Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, Executive Order 11990, Protection Of Wetlands, Executive Order 12699, Seismic Safety of Federal and Federally Assisted or Regulated New Building Construction); and is complementary to other relevant Federal programs (e.g., American Heritage Rivers Initiative; SBA Mitigation Loan Program; EPA Watershed Initiative, US Fish and Wildlife Services Fish Passage Program).**



REFERENCE:

Information on repetitive loss properties can be found at www.fema.gov/nfip/replps.shtm

See Attachment V. Environmental/Historic Preservation Established Questions for background on the Federal laws and Executive Orders. Additional information can be found at the following websites:

- National Environmental Policy Act: www.fema.gov/ehp/nepa.shtm
- National Historic Preservation Act: www.fema.gov/ehp/nhpa.shtm
- Endangered Species Act: www.fema.gov/ehp/esa.shtm
- Clean Water Act: www.fema.gov/ehp/cwa.shtm
- Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management:
www.fema.gov/library/eo11988.shtm
- Executive Order 11990, Protection Of Wetlands:
www.fema.gov/library/eo11990.shtm
- Executive Order 12699, Seismic Safety of Federal and Federally Assisted or Regulated New Building Construction:
<http://envirotext.eh.doe.gov/data/eos/bush/19900105a.html>

Information can be found at the following websites for other Federal programs:

- American Heritage Rivers Initiative: www.epa.gov/rivers/
- SBA Mitigation Loan Program: www.fema.gov/fima/planning_sba_loan.shtm
- EPA Watershed Initiative: www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/initiative/
- US Fish and Wildlife Service Fish Passage Program:
<http://fisheries.fws.gov/FWSMA/fishpass.htm>

- **Describe how this mitigation activity offers long-term financial and social benefits.**